

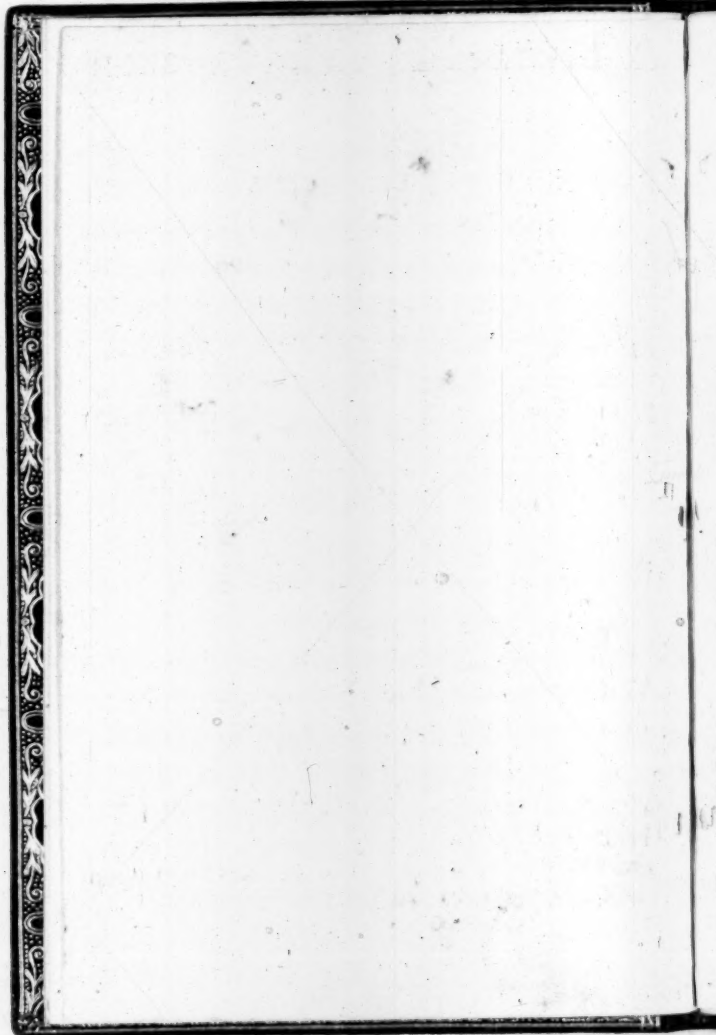
A True and Terrible Narration OF

A horrible Earthquake, which happened in the Province of *Calabria* (in the Kindgome of *Naples*, under the dominion of the King of *Spaine*) in *Italy*, upon the 27 of *March* last past according to Forraigne account, and by our *English* computation, the 17. and the Festivity of *S. Patrick*: to the devastation and depopulation (some totally, some in part) of 8. great Cities and 24. Townes and Castles (in the compasse of some 612. miles *English*,) and the death of some 50000. persons, of all degrees, sexe, and age. The like never heard of in precedent times.

From pregnant atestation, written in *English* verse,
By *Martin Parker*.

With a memorable List of some other
Earthquaks and horrible accidents, which
have heretofore happened in *England*.

Printed at *London* by *Tho. Cotes* for *Ralph Mabb*,
and *Fr. Grove*, and are to be sold at his Shop upon
Stow hill, neere the *Sarazins-head*, 1638.



THE
GREAT EARTH-
QUAKE IN CA-
LABRIA.

1.



Sable quill puld from a Ravens wing,
My muse would bee accomodated with
An instrument fit for this mournful thing
Of which I purpose to set down the pith
It is a subject which may teares extract
From him who all his life compunction lackt.

2.

A story 'tis, which to the world unfolds
Such horror and amazement, and withall
Such motives unto feare, that who beholds
(With inward eyes) the same, it may appall,
His heart, although of flint or marble made,
To powder, what is here in brieft display'd.

3.

Man that's composd of the foure Elements,
Offending his Creator, by the same
Hath punish'd beene, as diverse presedents
Divine and humane, to the world proclaime.
Water did all the world o'rewhelme; with fire,
Lewde Sodome and Gomorrah did expire.

A 2

The

The great Earthquake

4.

The ayre infected with many stinking fims,
Pestiferous diseases hath, and doth,
Produce, our owne experience credit wins
And ratifies all that I say for troth.

The earth hath often quak'd as't were with dread,
That sinfull man, upon the same should tread.

5.

This is the theame on which my mourning muse,
Hath undertane (at this time) to insist,
From *Italy* this strange and dreadfull newes,
By too true notion is made manifest,

Where such an earthquake happened of late,
The like, time nere to man did promulgate.

6.

The twenty seventh of *March* byth *Roman* count;
Seventeenth by ours, within this present yeare,
This horid earthquake chanc'd, which doth surmount,
All of which I did ever reade or heare,

Compassion mooves me when I here recite,
What with a quaking heart and hand I write.

7.

It's Province of *Calabria*, situate
It's *Heopolonian* Kingdome faire,
Where *Spaines* Dominion doth it selfe dilate,
Famous for building, fertile soyle, sweete ayre,
This wonderous pulpitation of earths frame
Hath marvels wrought Hyperbolicus to name

Twixt

in CALABRIA.

8.

Twixt three and foure oth' clocke ith' afternoone,
Oth' day aforefaide, this mischance did fall,
By which million of millions are undone,
Nay millions have lost lives and goods withall,
Many faire buildings are laid on the ground,
Which but one heure before stood firme and found.

9.

Eight Cities great, (as true report unfolds,
Of large Expansion, populous and strong,
With foure and twenty Townes, Castles, and Holds,
In this destruction meare laid flat along.
That honour wherein some too much doe trust,
Was on a sudden (here) laid in the dust.

10.

Some of these Cities, Townes, and Castles were,
All quite destroyd some halfe, some more, some lesse,
A miserable thing it is to heare,
Our Lord defend us from the like distresse.
In this (and other accidents) we may,
Behold the Power Divine, and our fraile stay.

11.

It is conjectur'd, that of all estates,
Men, Women, Children, yong, old, rich, and poore,
Full fifty thousand finished their dates,
Not onely (as we say) brought to deaths doore,
But all into his house, within one heure.
Were brought (as captives,) to's imperiall power.

A 3

Me

Twixt

The great Earthquake

12.

He thinkes I see with my interiour eyes
And through the Organs of my soule I heare
The dolefull shriekes, and lacrimable cries,
Which tender Parents made for children deare,
Husbands for Wives, wives for their husbands cry,
That suffer'd in this sad calamity.

13.

Children for Parents seeke, alas in vaine,
Brothers for Sisters, sisters brothers call,
Friends for the losse of friends, with woe complaine,
But conquering death hath made a pray of all,
Insatiate tyrant, could thy jawes deuoure,
No lesse then fifty thousand in one houre.

14.

Not onely people of the meaner sort,
In this disalterous tragedy did share,
But also Nobles had their dayes cut short,
Grand Signeours with their Ladies young and faire,
In that same space of time, were living, and
Dead (as we say) at th' turning of a hand.

15.

Among the rest, one thing is worthy note,
City nam'd *Castalione* there,
The Prince, (or governour) about was fought,
And live nor dead was not found any where,
Some parts of his deare Lady were discry'd,
And knowne from other Ladyes who then dy'd.

in CALABRIA.

16.

O Christians in your hearts imprint this thing,
Tis fit you should remember't every day,
Nay every houre, or minute, you who sing,
Drinke, sweare, and drab to passe your times away,
Can you claime any priviledge or power,
When fifty thousand perish'd in one houre.

17.

You may perceive by this what fickle trust,
Ought to be given to this worldly state,
Tis true we all must dye, the case is just,
But who is he that's certaine of his date,
Now 'live and merry, in a moments' space,
Dead and perhaps brought in a farre worse case,

18.

This fearefull accident though farre remote
Let *English* men lay neare unto their hearts,
We who upon security so dote,
As though we were alone from other parts
Sequesterd, that no misery may us touch,
Heaven grant, we don't presume of this too much.

19.

You who on worldly dresse such confidence
Impose, as if it would for ever bide,
In this sad glasse behold what weake defence;
The world affords to them who doe confide
Vpon her trust; here Cities, Townes, and call
Castles, within one houre both stand and fall.

A 4

For

The great Earthquake

20.

For buildings Christendome could not compare,
Vnto that Country where this chance befell,
Calabria what climate was more rare,
What People more in bravery did excell,
Naples, the world admires for every thing,
That to humanity may pleasure bring.

21.

And this *Calabria* now the Sable stage,
Whereon this dreadfull tragedy was playd,
Belongs to *Naples* and might equipage,
Hold with the best oth' Land, for (as I said)
All requisite for profit or delight,
May there be found, or (at the least) it might.

22.

But this notorious Earthquake which did spread,
Six hundred twelve miles in circuite thereabout,
Besides those fifty thousand that are dead,
They who are sadly left alone (I doubt)
Are in such misery through this mischance,
That death to them would be a furtherance.

23.

Let us (if we'll be Christians as we ought,
Or as w'are nam'd) compassionate this case,
The soules of those who dy'd, our Saviour bought
With stripes, with Ignominy and disgrace,
And dy'd that they might live; O let us then,
Leave judging them, least we be Iudg'd agen.

Ycc

in CALABRIA.

24.

Yet it is lamentable to conceive,
A Corasive tis to a tender heart,
To thinke that death in one houre should bereave
The breaths of fifty thousand with one dart.
For oft reiteration blame me not,
Such fearefull judgements should be ne're forgot.

25.

To shew the naturall causes why the earth,
(Fixed by Heaven never to remoove,)
Doth quake in judgement, I confesse a dearth,
For I resolve never to fore above,
The pitch of my owne knowledge; but refer,
The curious to the Learn'd Astrologer.

26.

Nor were it (altogether) requisite,
To shew you (if I could) such causes heere;
For be they what they may (or can) be, yet
The God of Nature's Power therein shines cleere;
Who can be ignorant that he doth still,
By secondary causes worke his will.

27.

The most abject of Creatures, frogs and mise,
He can suborne proud *Pharoahs* heart to quell,
Thrafonicke Herod, may be eate with lice,
And many proofes (too tedious here to tell)
Are instances to shew that tis our God,
Thar strikes the stroke, what ever be the rod,

Yet

Will

The great Earthquake

28.

Will *Hezekia* of his plague be quit,
Then let him figge leaves to the fore apply,
A heavenly Doctor doth administer it,
Or else for all the figge leaves he may dye.
By such things which to humane sence appears,
Preposterous, he exacts our love, and feare.

29.

Now to returne from whence I have degrest,
Let every Christian (as before I said)
Imprint this sad disalter in his brest,
And thinke that though our Lord his hand hath stayd
From scourging him; yet let him well forecast,
For all old reckonings must be paid at last.

30.

The stroke that's long a striking when it comes
It falleth heavy; patience too much urg'd
Breakes into fury: selfe conceit benummes
Is *English* men, cause other Lands are scorg'd
And ours is not: instead of thankfulness,
We all ascribe to our owne worthinesse.

31.

The *Spaniard* is by nature very proud,
The *Dutchman* he's inclin'd to drunkenesse,
The *French* with flattery doth his falshood shroud,
The *Italians* bent to lust, this all confesse,
But *England* with all natures so agrees,
Shee is a brieft compendium of all these.

In

in CALABRIA.

32.

In pride, ebriety, fraud, lechery,
These severall nations must of us come short,
In fashions we have such variety,
The Readers knowledge passes my report.
Of either Sex it cannot be deny'd,
No nation the *English* shall excell in pride.

33.

Ebriety (or swinish drunkenesse)
Is so in use among both high and low,
Our loves we cannot to our friends expresse,
Vnlesse with drinke we make their braines to crow,
No *Almaine*, *Belgian*, *Dane*, nor *Switzer*, can
For drinking be compar'd to th' *Englishman*.

34.

And are we not bent to dissembling,
I would we were not; but the case is plaine,
In conversation 'tis a common thing,
To speake, sincere-ly, very-ly for gaine,
I wish with all my heart that writing this
Ide wrote a very lye, and thought amisse.

35.

Can we acquit our land of luxury,
While knowne examples every day are seene,
You who through age experience verity,
Tell whether here afore the like hath beene,
O *England* thou art growne unto that passe,
What now is done before time wondrous was.

In

Nay

The great earthquake

36.

Nay have we not certaine peculier crimes,
Of which some other Lands are ignorant,
Brought in by the gradation of our times,
With no Christian might decay through want
You whom't concerns take notice what I say,
Such sins as these bring Countries to decay.

37.

All this, and more then may this time be spoke,
Is found too true, in this our untrue age,
Then fith we doe our Lord to wrath provoke,
May we not wonder why his jealous rage
Hath not consum'd us all before this time,
Sure some good prayers for us to heaven clime.

38.

Were we not drownd in pride and selfe conceite,
With humble eyes we easily might discern,
That certainly it is Gods mercy great,
To spar's; for had we what our sins doeerne
We had beene ere this as *Sodome* and *Gomorrhah*,
But *Abrabams* number doth some respite borrow.

39.

Me thinkes I can't too oft reiterate,
This counsell which I heretofore have given,
O *England* wouldst thou still retaine thy state,
Then shew thy gratitude, give thanks to Heaven,
Desire this benefactor that thou maist
Injoy his Love as hitherto thou hast.

Before

in CALABRIA.

40.

Behold his judgement in his present theame,
Confesse thy selfe that thou deserv'st as much,
Neither let any take this as a dreame,
Who so conceives, if there be any such,
He seekes to tye Gods power within the chaines
Which he hath forg'd in's owne instable braines.

41.

Not that I would binde any mans beleefe,
Vnto *Vox Populi* (or to they say)
For then I doe confesse (and speake with grieve)
More tales then true he might heare every day.
But this sad story of *Calabria's* woe,
Hath all that truth can have, its truth to shew.

42.

It is no newes brought from Duke *Humphryes* tombe,
Nor Grave-end Barge : nor any thing invented,
But what from *Venice* did (to *England*) come.
Where in *Italian* 'twas (with Licence) Printed.
If any to gaine say it goes about,
He may as well of any writings doubt.

43.

Gods Power cannot be circumscrib'd in bounds,
Thats a meere Atheisticall opinion,
For he who with a blast his foes confounds,
Can we set limits unto his Dominion.
And that none may plead ignorance, every age
Hath view'd his wonders, acted oth' worlds stage.

I will

The great Earthquake

44.

I will not intermeddle Sacred writ,
With my prophane discourse, nor need I do't,
The Power Divine appeares so plaine in it,
The meanest capacity doubts not to kno't,
But touching Earthquakes, and such horrid things,
What History affords, my industry brings.

45.

And 'cause tis to my Countrymen I write,
I from our *English* Chronicles will gather,
A List of what did former times affricte,
And I conceite 'twill gaine beleefe the rather ;
Because 'tis out of our owne stories drawne,
For prooffe of which my credit is in pawne.

A memoriall or List of some Earthquakes and other horrible accidents which heretofore have hap- ned in *England*, &c.

*In Anno Mundi 2907. in the Raigne of Rinaldo the 12.
King of Britaine from Brute, before our blessed Redemers
birth 766. it rained blood 3. dayes, after which come veno-
mous Flies which slew many people, and there insued such a
mortality, that the Land was almost quite depopulated.*

*In Anno Dom. 778. in the raigne of Brithrius King of
the west Saxions it rained blood from heaven, which falling
on mens cloaths appeared like crosses.*

In

in CALABRIA.

In Anno Dom. 1088. in the second yeare of King Wil Ruffus, on the 11. day of August was a marvelous great Earthquake in England, which overturned many house and Churches, and killed many people.

In Anno Dom. 1098. in the 12. yeare of the same King raigne, at Fincheſter in Barkeſheire, a well caſt out blood as before it had done water, and afterward for the ſpace of 15 dayes, great flames of fire were ſeene in the ayre.

In Anno. Dom. 1550. in the 4. yeare of Edward the ſixt upon the 25. of May, being Munday, about noone there was an Earthquake for the ſpace of a quarter of an houre, at Blenchingly, Godſted, Croyden, Albery, and diuerſe other places in Surry and Middleſex.

In Anno Dom. 1579. the 19. of Queene Elizabeth, on the 6. of Aprill was a generall Earthquake over all England, eſpecially the South part, which ſhook and overturned many houſes, Churches, and Caſtles, and ſlew a great number of people, which wrought ſuch a ſudden diſtraction and amazement among the ſurvivers, that many thought doomes day was come.

46.

And what of all this may the Reader ſay,
To whom I anſwer theres a reaſon juſt,
For many hearts are hardened at this day,
They'll beleeeve nothing but what needs they muſt.
What their owne eyes behold, may hardly that,
This is a thing much to be wondered at.

Theſe

The great Earthquake, &c.

47.

These severall examples here produc'd
From our owne records, seene in our owne Land,
I thinke by no just man will be refus'd,
This being presum'd, then Reader understand,
Earthquakes have beene in *England* as is shownē,
Why not in *Italy*, though to us unknowne.

48.

Now being informed by intelligence
Which cannot be suspected; let us then
Construe all to a charitable sence,
And feare our Lord, expecting daily when,
We shall by death be rested for our breath,
And pray 'gainst sudden unprovided death.

49.

Let the remembrance of those Christians which,
Have suffered sudden death in this sad chance,
Be an admonishment to poore and rich,
To arme themselves for death's (none sparing) lance,
The want of preparation is the worst,
For death is sudden, come it last or first.

50.

Lastly, lets all invoke the Power Divine,
To keepe us from destruction and mishaps,
And that his favours on us still may shine,
Defending us from all the snares and traps,
Which enemies may lay to this effect.
Our King, Queene, and blest Issac, Lord protect,

F I N I S.

Amen.

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) lance,

protect,
Amen

